

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1205
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2267

FOR VEST AND NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ IN TURKISH PRESS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ BY
TURKISH DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT TUNA KOPRULU WHICH
APPEARED IN PRESS THIS MORNING. INTERVIEW WAS APPARENTLY
GIVEN IN "EARLY MARCH". BEGIN TEXT:

(Q) WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT
AFTER THEIR LAST MISSION TO TURKEY?

(A) I THINK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS LIKELY TO MAKE A
DECISION SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AS TO WHETHER
OR NOT IT WILL ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE DCA THIS YEAR.
I THINK THAT THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN THE
CONGRESS
FOR THE DCA, IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE
SOME LEADERSHIP IN GETTING IT THROUGH. HOPEFULLY,
WE WILL FIND OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S
POSITION IS GOING TO BE.

(Q) PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL SEND
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THE TURKISH DCA TO THE CONGRESS. WHEN DO YOU THINK
THE CONGRESS WILL START ACTING ON THIS ISSUE?

(A) I THINK THAT THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT FOR IT. I
THINK MORE AND MORE PEOPLE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT
THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN COUNTER-EFFECTIVE. IT IS ENFEEBLING
FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW ONE OF OUR VERY IMPORTANT
NATO ALLIES WHILE IT HASN'T BEEN IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTED

TO A RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IT HAS LED TO A DETERIORATION OF OUR BI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, MOR AND MORE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE BEGINNING TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE EMBARGO, THE REPEAL OF WHICH, OF COURSE, IS EXPLICIT IN THE APPROVAL OF THE DCA.

(Q) YOU DON'T THINK THE EMBARGO COULD BE LIFTED UNLESS THE DCA IS RATIFIED?

(A) I THINK THAT THEY REALLY GO HAND IN HAND. IF WE APPROVE THE DCA, WE WOULD BE APPROVING A LEVEL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY SUPPORT IN CONGRESS FOR THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO WITHOUT APPROVING THE DCA.

(Q) THERE WILL BE OTHER RECIPROCAL THINGS DONE BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AFTER THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED...

(A) I THINK THAT THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CONGRESS IS THAT THE EMBARGO AND THE DCA GO HAND IN HAND. IF THE DCA IS APPROVED THE EMBARGO WILL BE ELIMINATED. IF THERE ARE VOTES TO ELIMINATE THE EMBARGO, THERE WILL ALSO BE VOTES APPROVING THE DCA.

(A) THE DCA BEING ALMOST THREE YEARS OLD MAY NEED TO BE RENEGOTIATED. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT IT? ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF RENEGOTIATING?

(A) THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THE DCA ABOUT WHICH I AM NOT OVERLY HAPPY. I WOULD HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN RENEGOTIATING UNCLASSIFIED

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IT. HOWEVER, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE EXISTING DCA.

(Q) YOU THINK IT IS A QUICKER OR A BETTER SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PROBLEMS AS IT IS?

(A) THAT WOULD DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO ACCEPT CHANGES IN IT. IT MIGHT MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE HERE.

(Q) THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IS TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES FOR THE ECONOMY OF TURKEY. IN A WAY THE NEWS MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES INDIRECTLY DAMAGED THE TURKISH ECONOMY MORE WITH HEAVY ACCUSATIONS. DON'T YOU AGREE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONSIDER TO HELP AN ALLY IN THIS CRITICAL SITUATION?

(A) I THINK WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO HELP. I THINK WHAT WE ARE NOW WITNESSING IN TURKEY IS A STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF TURKEY. THIS IS BETWEEN THOSE WHO THINK THAT TURKEY SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE WEST AND THOSE WHO FEEL THAT TURKEY SHOULD HAVE A MORE ISLAMIC AND NEUTRAL ORIENTATION. IT IS VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST THAT TURKEY MUST FEEL ITSELF A FULL PARTNER OF THE WESTERN WORLD. TURKEY IS ONE OF THE FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT IS A GENUINE DEMOCRACY. I THINK IT IS IN OUR INTEREST FOR THE FORCES OF MODERNIZATION, DEMOCRACY AND WESTERNIZATION

TO PREVAIL IN TURKEY.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 2267

FOR VEST AND NIMETZ

(Q) DO YOU LINK THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF TURKEY TODAY
WITH THE OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
TURKEY?

(A) THAT'S REALLY HARD FOR ME TO SAY. I'M NOT AN
EXPERT ON THE TURKISH ECONOMY. I DO THINK THAT WE SHOULD
BE READY TO HELP TURKEY WITH ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.
BUT I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO ANALYZE THE REASONS FOR THE
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT THIS POINT.

(Q) HOW ABOUT THE MILITARY AID? DO YOU THINK TURKEY IS
GETTING ENOUGH FOR FISCAL 1979? DO YOU HAVE THE FIGURES
PROPOSED, HOW WOULD YOUR COMMITTEE REACT ON THAT
DURING THE HEARINGS?

(A) I THINK THE MILITARY CAPACITY OF THE TURKISH ARMED
FORCES HAS DECLINED AS A RESULT OF THE EMBARGO. THAT
HAS REDUCED THE ABILITY OF TURKEY TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS
TO NATO, AS WELL AS TO DEFEND ITSELF. I THINK THAT WE
HAVE TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO TURKEY'S LEGITIMATE
DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS THAN WE HAVE BEEN. THIS IS WHY
I WANT TO ELIMINATE THE EMBARGO AND APPROVE THE DCA.

(Q) IS THERE ANY CHANCE IN YOUR SUB-COMMITTEE

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MEETINGS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY TALKS ABOUT LIFTING THE EMBARGO?

(A) NINETEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SIGNED A LETTER WHICH WAS SENT A SHORT WHILE AGO TO SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, TELLING HIM IN EFFECT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE DCA, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD SUPPORT IT.

(Q) AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO GO TO TURKEY IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND TALK TO THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES?

(A) I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING THERE, TO SOME EXTENT IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION ASKS THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE DCA AND, THEN, AT WHAT POINT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE PICKING UP THE LEGISLATION. IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO ASK FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE DCA THAT IS GOING TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES I THINK THAT I WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN MUSTERING SUPPORT FOR THE DCA IF I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO GET THEIR VIEW OF THE ISSUE. UNTIL I'M CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION IS ASKING TO APPROVE THE DCA AND WHEN THAT WILL COME UP, IT WILL BE A LITTLE BIT REMOTE.

(Q) IS YOUR COMMITTEE GOING TO DO A PRE-ARRANGING WORK BEFORE IT WILL BE CONSIDERED?

(A) WELL, I'M SURE THAT THERE WOULD BE HEARINGS ON THE DCA. I WOULD GET OVER THERE, I THINK, IN TWO WEEKS. WE ARE GOING TO KNOW WHAT POSITION THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE. WE HAVE A RECESS AT THE END OF MARCH AND I AM TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO GO TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.
END TEXT.
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